

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, UY

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS CHARGES AND CRITICISM
OF U.S.

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3537 (DTG 212005Z SEP 76)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF ARTIGAS, AIR FORCE BRIGADIER JORGE BORAD, RECENTLY NAMED HEAD OF ANCAP, THE STATE OIL MONOPOLY, MADE A DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE U.S. (WITHOUT NAMING IT), CRITICIZING THE ATTITUDE OF "PURITANISM" DISPLAYED BY SOME CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY. THE SPEECH REITERATED THE GOU'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE ON ITS PRESENT COURSE. END SUMMARY

2. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 126TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ARTIGAS, IN WHICH GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY DIGNITARIES GATHERED ON SEPTEMBER 23 IN AN EVENING CEREMONY IN INDEPENDENCE SQUARE IN MONTEVIDEO,

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BRIGADIER JORGE BORAD, AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARMED FORCES,

GAVE A SPEECH WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CRITICIZED DIRECTLY RECENT U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD URUGUAY. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY REFER TO THE U.S., BUT HIS MEANING WAS CLEAR. THE SPEECH WAS TRANSMITTED BY RADIO AND TELEVISION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

3. AFTER RENDERING HOMAGE TO ARTIGAS AND "TO THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS THAT IS BRINGING URUGUAY OUT OF ITS PREVIOUS CHAOS AND ANARCHY", BORAD SAID THAT THE TUPAMAROS HAD USED THE PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS AS A SHIELD FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES. IN THE MOST PERTINENT EXCERPTS HE SAID: "MEMORY IS FRAGILE AND WE LIVE IN TIMES IN WHICH PEOPLE EASILY FORGET. PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT DAILY THERE IS SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO GIVE US A LESSON OR A PRESCRIPTION OF DEMOCRACY, FORGETTING, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THAT WHAT WE HAD HERE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A FICTIONAL DEMOCRACY. SOVEREIGNTY RESTED NEITHER WITH THE PEOPLE NOR WITH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, BUT INSTEAD WITH SPURIOUS PRESSURE GROUPS ALMOST ALWAYS PAID AND DIRECTED FROM ABROAD. OR SOMEONE EVERY DAY GIVES US A LESSON ON THE SEPARATION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWERS AS SET FORTH BY MONTESQUIEU, FORGETTING WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT THE TRUE POWERS THAT WERE FLOURISHING HERE WERE NOT THOSE OF MORE CLASSIC TIMES, BUT RATHER THE POWER OF SEDITION, THE POWER OF MINORITY AND POLITICIZED TRADE UNIONS, AND THE POWER OF DEMAGOGUE AND POLITICAL TRADE-OFFS."

4. BORAD CONTINUED, "AND ALSO IN SOME OTHER COUNTRY, IN ANOTHER LARGE COUNTRY, THERE ARE CERTAIN PEOPLE IN WHOM THERE HAS APPEARED AN EXCESS OF PURITANISM AND THEY ARE NOW VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY. IT IS A SHAME THEY HAVE ONLY RECENTLY TURNED THEIR ATTENTION ONCE AGAIN TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND FOR THIS REASON DO NOT TRULY KNOW US. THEY DO NOT KNOW THAT WHILE THEY WERE DEFOLIATING THE JUNGLES OF ASIA, WHILE PARTICIPATING IN WARS THERE, WE OURSELVES WERE ALSO ENGAGED IN OUR OWN WAR; AND THAT WE WERE SO ENGAGED IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AGAINST A CRUEL AND CUNNING ENEMY FROM WITHIN, WHO HAD INTERNATIONAL BACKING AND WHOSE ACTIONS WERE NOT EXACTLY GUIDED BY ETHICAL PRINCIPLES."

5. THE SPEECH WENT ON TO CRITICIZE A "HACKNEYED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION" (READ AS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL) FOR CONDUCTING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST URUGUAY WHILE "NOT ASKING ABOUT OR DOING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANYTHING FOR THE THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN COUNTRIES WITH MARXIST DICTATORSHIPS". FROM A RECENT PUBLICATION ENTITLED, "THE ARMED FORCES TO THE PEOPLE OF URUGUAY: FROM SUBVERSION TO PEACE", HE QUOTED AN EXCERPT DESCRIBING THE PERIOD 1968-1972, WHEN THE TUPAMAROS AND OTHER EXTREMIST GROUPS CONDUCTED THEIR TERRORIST CAMPAIGN. HE ALSO QUOTED AN EXCERPT FROM THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS IN WHICH MENDEZ PLEDGED TO KEEP THE COUNTRY ON ITS PRESENT PATH DESPITE THE CAMPAIGN OF "DEFAMATION" CONDUCTED

AGAINST URUGUAY FROM ABROAD. TOWARDS THE END OF HIS SPEECH,
AND SPEAKING FOR THE ARMED FORCES, BORAD QUOTED THOMAS
JEFFERSON: "THE ACT OF KNOWING WHEN TO GIVE UP ONE'S MAN-
DATE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME HAS THE SAME IMPORTANCE AS
KNOWING ONE HAS FULFILLED ONE'S OBLIGATIONS FAITHFULLY."
END UNCLASSIFIED

6. COMMENT: BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. THE TONE OF
BORAD'S REMARKS WAS SIMILAR TO PRIVATE REACTIONS OF GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALS (SEE REFTEL) TO THE KOCH AMENDMENTS.
A MEDIA SOURCE TOLD A USIS OFFICER THAT WORD HAD
BEEN PASSED TO MILITARY SPOKESMEN TO FREELY CRITICIZE THE
U.S. IN THE FUTURE. THUS, WE ENTER A NEW ERA AS IT HAS
BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN CRITICIZED
PUBLICLY IN RATHER STRONG TERMS BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE GOV.
THE REFERENCE TO THOSE WHO, "...GIVE US A LESSON ON THE
SEPARATION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWERS..." MAY BE INTENDED AS A
WARNING TO THE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER, EL DIA, WHICH HAS
EDITORIALLY CRITICIZED THE PROPOSED MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.
HAAHR

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